

Pollock-Capps House
1120 Penn Street
Fort Worth
Tarrant County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3240

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

POLLOCK-CAPPS HOUSE

HABS No. TX-3240

Location: 1120 Penn Street, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. The lot is a part of Block 37, Jennings West Addition on the northwest corner of Penn Street and West Lancaster Street (formerly North Street), on the bluff above the Clear Fork of the Trinity River.

Present Owner: Historic Fort Worth, Inc.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: This house, an elaborately gabled and galleried Victorian structure with Renaissance detail, is typical of the large homes built in Fort Worth for early cattlemen and businessmen at the turn of the nineteenth century. It is one of two such homes remaining on what was known as "Quality Hill."

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1898.
2. Architect: The house is believed to have been designed by Howard Messer, a partner in the firm of Messer, Sanguinet, and Messer of Fort Worth and Galveston. Mr. Messer previously had designed the adjacent house at 1110 Penn Street for Frank Ball, an attorney from Galveston. Dr. and Mrs. Pollock, who resided on the northeast corner of Penn and North Streets, are said to have admired the Ball house and to have requested a similar plan for their new home.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Built for Dr. Joseph R. Pollock in 1898. Devised to William Capps in 1912. Deeded to Mattie Mae Capps Anderson in 1924. Devised to Frank Anderson in 1963. Purchased by Historic Fort Worth, Inc., in 1971.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Dr. Joseph R. Pollock, born on February 10, 1850, was a native of Galesburg, Illinois, and a graduate of Hahnemann College, Philadelphia. He was married in 1876 to Phoebe Emiline Bowers of Peru, Illinois, a graduate of Knox College in Galesburg. They had four children; Robert, Lloyd, Porter, and Phoebe Mildred. Dr. Pollock practiced medicine in Fort Worth for twenty-five years from 1885 until two years before his death in 1912. During his career, he served three separate terms as president of the Texas State Homeopathic Physician's Association. The Pollocks lived at 1120 Penn Street from 1899 until 1912. The property was then acquired by William Capps, co-founder of the pioneer law firm

of Capps and Cantey, publisher of the Fort Worth Record, and real estate developer. Mr. Capps was born on May 20, 1858, perhaps in Livingstone, Tennessee and moved with his family to Texas, first to Johnson Station and later to Arlington. Mr. Capps married a Sherman, Texas, resident, Sallie Brooks. The Capps had three children, Count, Alba, and Mattie Mae, all of whom completed their education at southern schools outside of Texas. The younger daughter, Mattie Mae, continued to live in the house with her parents after her marriage to Frank Anderson, business manager of Mr. Capps' newspaper and a cousin of Dr. Pollock's son-in-law, David Baker. The house remained in the family through the deaths of Mr. Capps in 1925, Mrs. Capps in 1946, and Mrs. Anderson in 1963. In 1971 Mr. Anderson moved to the Fort Worth Club and sold the property to Historic Fort Worth, Inc., a preservation corporation organized by the Amen G. Carter Foundation and the Junior League of Fort Worth.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Pollock Collection. Photographs donated by Mrs. L. A. Squires, Historic Fort Worth, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas.

2. Bibliography:

Fort Worth, Texas, City Directory, 1888-1900.

Fort Worth, Texas, Department of Tax Assessor and Collector, Residential Appraisal Card.

Rattikan Title Company. Description of Chain of Title, Policy GF-6868B.

Capps Collection, letters from Mattie Mae Capps to Mrs. William Capps, 1909-10, Historic Fort Worth, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas.

Letter from Mrs. L. A. Squires, granddaughter of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Pollock, Washington, North Carolina, October 5, 1971.

Interview with Mrs. F. Hayes McFarland (Carrie Eddleman), granddaughter of Frank Ball and present owner of house at 1110 Penn Street, July 6, 1971.

Interview with Frank Anderson, son-in-law of William Capps, July 9, 1971.

Memorandum from Sam B. Cantey, III, grandson of Sam B. Cantey, a partner of William Capps, November 26, 1971.

Prepared by: Betty M. Brown
Historic Fort Worth, Inc.
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